
A career as a **WILDLIFE OFFICER**



Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
An Equal Opportunity Employer

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

APPLICANTS FOR WILDLIFE OFFICER MUST...

- Be a college graduate with a degree in wildlife or fish management OR in the biological sciences, agricultural sciences, forestry, zoology or a closely related field with at least 20 semester hours of wildlife or fisheries related courses.
- Be a competent motor vehicle driver and possess a valid vehicle Operator's License, or be able to obtain a valid Tennessee Operator's License by date of employment.
- Pass a physical examination, to include drug screening, by a licensed physician contracted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.
- Meet minimum physical qualifications of visual acuity of 20/40 in each eye, separately without glasses and each eye corrected to 20/30 or better with corrective lenses.
- Be 21 years of age on the closing date for applications.
- Be able to lift a small boat, launch a medium-sized boat, lift an outboard motor, and remove deer killed by automobiles on Tennessee highways.
- Be able to work out-of-doors in extremely hot or cold weather.
- Pass a written Civil Service examination which consists of the following areas: Agricultural and Forestry Resources; Wildlife Management; Hunting and Boating Safety; Map and Chart Reading; Investigative Reporting; Reading Comprehension; and Interpersonal Communications. Wildlife Officers are hired from the "top five" applicants on the Civil Service Registers.
- Successfully compete in an oral interview board selection procedure.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

There are three levels of Wildlife Officers in the Agency. Wildlife Officer 1 is the entry level position. This individual is responsible for a variety of law enforcement and wildlife management activities in an assigned area. A Wildlife Officer 2 and Wildlife Officer Supervisor are lead classes that, in addition to conducting day-to-day enforcement and management activities, provide supervision for the Wildlife Officers 1 in their assigned areas.

During seasonal slow-downs in day-to-day law enforcement, activities are directed toward other aspects of the management, protection, propagation, and conservation of wildlife, including hunting and fishing. Wildlife Officers must be well informed about all phases of the Agency's programs so they may provide services requested by sportsmen/women and landowners. Their work involves the following five major areas of the Agency's activities:

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Officers patrol assigned areas making inspections for boating, hunting, fishing, littering, and pollution law violations; check hunting and fishing licenses; inspect vehicles for possession of illegal game; check for the use of illegal equipment; check bag limits; check boats for proper registration and safety equipment; investigate sources of pollution; stake out illegal night hunting and poaching sites; investigate boating and hunting accidents; apprehend and arrest violators of wildlife laws; collect and preserve evidence; and serve as a state's witness at hearings and court cases.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Officers collect and prepare wildlife research data using such techniques as browse surveys, wildlife call counts, field bag checks, and aging and collecting parts of harvested animals. They capture, band, and relocate wildlife for restocking; and submit recommendations on wildlife seasons and the number of animals to be harvested from their assigned areas.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Agency Officers provide technical assistance to farm pond owners and assist with trout distribution in remote areas. On occasion, Officers work with fisheries biologists, conducting fish population surveys. They monitor water for signs of pollution problems and fish kills; and enforce laws, rules, and regulations relative to fishing seasons.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Wildlife Officers present wildlife conservation programs to civic clubs, sportsman associations, and school groups. They teach hunting and boating safety classes and provide information to the general public on hunting and fishing seasons and regulations. They participate in radio and TV programs, county fairs and high school and college career days; and prepare news releases and hunting and fishing articles for local newspaper.

AGENCY AFFAIRS

A Wildlife Officer may be asked to assist landowners in the development of a wildlife management plan for their property; investigate wildlife damage complaints and suggest methods for controlling problem animals. They may be called in during public emergencies requiring first aid, and flood or snow rescues. Officers are responsible for equipment maintenance; in-service training programs; and coordinating with other local law enforcement agencies such as county sheriff's departments, the Forestry Service and the Highway Patrol.

WILDLIFE OFFICER TRAINING

Applicants selected as Wildlife Officers must successfully complete eight weeks of intensive training at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. Instruction includes law enforcement techniques, evidence gathering and preservation, preparation for court appearances, defensive driving, proper use of enforcement equipment, and firearms training which includes qualification on the firing range. Officers are required to serve a 12-month probationary period and may be dismissed at any

time during this period for failure to maintain a satisfactory record, for misconduct, or for other behavior unbecoming an officer of the Agency. Upon successful completion of the initial 12-month probationary period, applicants are given Civil Service status. Officers are then required to attend 40 hours of in-service refresher training each year.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS

Appointment as a Wildlife Officer is contingent upon agreement to accept assignment anywhere in the state and to accept transfer to a new assignment when requested by the Agency. When an Officer is transferred at the request of the Agency, moving expenses are paid provided the transfer is more than 50 miles from their previous work station.

Equipment furnished consists of an Agency car, two-way radio, binoculars, flashlight, boat and motor (in counties where necessary), uniforms and all items necessary to carry out enforcement functions. Day-to-day expenses connected with performing Agency duties are reimbursable through expense accounts.

Hours of work vary with seasons and include most Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. In addition, officers serve on a 24-hour on-call basis so when emergency or enforcement calls arise, they can be handled immediately. As a result an Officer may occasionally be required to work alone, sometimes late at night or during early morning hours.

Agency benefits include optional group health insurance; a vested retirement plan; participation in the Social Security program; sick and annual leave; deferred compensation and flexible benefits plans; compensatory leave accrual for overtime or holiday work; and various other state programs.

APPLICATION FOR WILDLIFE OFFICER MAY BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO:

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Personnel Division
P.O. Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204

Many TWRA programs receive Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.



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